

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01201 090651Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 090548Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5117

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 01201

EO:11652:GDS
TAGS: PINR,PDIP, NZ, RP
SUBJECT: BARBARA ANGUS APPOINTED NEW ZEALAND'S AMBASSADOR
- TO PHILIPPINES

1. NEW ZEALAND MFA ANNOUNCED MARCH 6 THAT BARBARA ANGUS, CURRENTLY DCM IN THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WILL BECOME NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST FEMALE AMBASSADOR WHEN SHE TAKES UP HER POSITION IN MANILA IN AUGUST 1978.

2. ANGUS, 54 YEARS OLD AND UNMARRIED, HAS HELD THE RANK OF MINISTER IN THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY SINCE HER ARRIVAL IN FEBRUARY 1976. HER PREVIOUS OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED KUALA LUMPUR, SYDNEY, WASHINGTON (1954-57) AND SINGAPORE. IN WELLINGTON, ANGUS HAS HEADED THE CONSULAR, PROTOCOL, AND INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISIONS AS WELL AS SEVERAL LESSER RESPONSIBILITIES. SHE HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN HISTORY FROM OTAGO UNIVERSITY AND BRIEFLY TAUGHT AND WROTE HISTORY BEFORE JOINING THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1950.

3. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE BETTER SOURCE FOR RECENT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, EMBASSY FILES DO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON ANGUS:

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- (A) "PLEASANT, WELL-INFORMED YET MODEST INDIVIDUAL WHO OBVIOUSLY LOOKS FORWARD TO RETURNING TO WASHINGTON" (FEB 1976);

- (B) "EFFICIENT, THOROUGH, INFORMED AND PLEASANT OFFICER (WHO) ALWAYS MAINTAINED THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS, BOTH

OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY, WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS"
(JULY 1972);

- (C) "ATTRACTIVE (WITH) AN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND EASY
MANNER AND A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR...EVEN TEMPERAMENT AND
A VERY QUICK INTELLIGENCE...MOST FRIENDLY TO PERSONNEL OF
THE EMBASSY" (JULY 1972).

4. ANGUS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN ACCEPTED BY THE NZ
FOREIGN SERVICE. UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, THE MFA HAS BEEN
A BASTION OF MALE PREJUDICE. THE HIGH PRAISE SHE RE-
CEIVED FROM HER COLLEAGUES WHILE ASSIGNED IN WELLINGTON,
THEREFORE, IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF HER QUALITIES.

5. FOR WASHINGTON: MFA HAS NOT ANNOUNCED A REPLACEMENT
FOR ANGUS, BUT IT IS RUMORED THAT THE PRESENT HEAD OF
THE MFA ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION, HUGO JUDD, SHORTLY WILL
BE APPOINTED. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE FURTHER WHEN MFA
ANNOUNCES ITS DESIGNEE. SELDEN

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